

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**RS24920**

The federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, public law 113-295, 26 U.S.C. 529A, provides that a state may establish a program under which certain individuals with disabilities may open accounts to save money for qualified disability expenses, such as those relating to education, housing, transportation, employment training and assistive technology. Under the Act, these accounts are to be disregarded in determining an individual's eligibility for federal assistance programs, including Medicaid and supplemental security income. Although this bill does not provide for Idaho to establish an ABLE account program, eligible Idaho residents can open these accounts in other states having such a program. This legislation provides for disregarding ABLE accounts when determining an Idaho resident's eligibility for a state or local assistance program or need-based state or local grant so long as the ABLE account and the activity related to it would be disregarded in determining the applicant's eligibility for a federal assistance program. This legislation also establishes, subject to appropriation, a function to provide individuals with disabilities, and those assisting them, technical assistance relating to the ABLE Act. This technical assistance is to include information and assistance relating to the ABLE Act. This technical assistance is to include information and assistance in setting up ABLE accounts in other states and providing information related to financial literacy.

FISCAL NOTE

The Idaho State Independent Living Council is requesting a fiscal year 2018 appropriation of \$45,000.00 to fund the half-time technical assistance function. This includes \$23,800 for salary, with the remainder in benefits and operating funds.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).